

DANIEL T. KILDEE
5TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

SENIOR WHIP

DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



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Washington, DC 20515

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/RepDankKildee
 @RepDankKildee

September 22, 2015

Secretary Sylvia Matthews Burwell
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
HHS Office of the Secretary
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Administrator William Craig Fugate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Administrator Gina McCarthy
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Director Tom Frieden
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Secretary Burwell, Administrator McCarthy, Administrator Fugate and Director Frieden:

Recent developments regarding the level of lead in the water in one of the communities I represent, Flint, Mich., have raised significant concerns about the safety of its drinking water. For this reason, I am requesting immediate resources to provide safe drinking water to the residents of Flint until additional testing can be completed that confirms the water is safe, particularly for young children.

Although the city of Flint and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have conducted tests and taken the position that the lead level in the water is safe and below the action level, there are significant questions about the efficacy of their testing. In fact, Dr. Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech University, an established drinking water expert, conducted his own tests as part of a study that determined the water in Flint was above the lead action level.

Additionally, yesterday the Greater Flint Health Coalition, a group of health professionals in the community, released a report showing elevated blood lead levels in residents in Flint, particularly in young children. In response, the Coalition has requested that the Genesee County Health Department release a health advisory indicating that the water in Flint is unsafe to drink.

Thus, I am requesting resources from your agency to provide clean drinking water to the residents of Flint until additional testing can determine when the water will be safe to drink and a long-term solution can be implemented.

This is a serious health issue, particularly for young children, and until the water is demonstrated to be safe, immediate action must be taken to ensure Flint's residents have potable drinking water.

I look forward to working with you and thank you for your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel T. Kildee", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Pediatric Lead Exposure In Flint, Michigan: A Failure of Primary Prevention

Mona Hanna-Attisha MD MPH FAAP

Hurley Children's Hospital

Michigan State University Department of Pediatrics and Human
Development

Introducing Makayla*



- 12 month old girl (DOB 8/15/2014) presented last week for her 1 year old check up. No concerns.
- Lives with single mom and 2 older siblings in west side (48504). Formula from WIC; powder mixed with warm tap water.
- Physical exam and development are normal. Makayla receives her 1 year old vaccines and routine lead and hemoglobin screening.
- *A couple days later, lead level comes back as 6 ug/dL.*

*Hypothetical scenario

Blood lead level of 6 ug/dL....

- Blood lead levels (BLL) above 5 ug/dL are considered elevated blood lead levels (EBL)
- Just a few years ago (2012), 10 ug/dL was cutoff
- Increasing evidence shows NO safe blood lead level
- Disproportionately impacts low income, minority children
- Primary prevention is most important

Primary Prevention

- “Because no measurable level of blood lead is known to be without deleterious effects, and because once engendered, the effects appear to be irreversible in the absence of any other interventions, public health, environmental and housing policies should encourage **PREVENTION** of all exposure to lead.”

“Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention.” 2012
CDC Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.

What will happen to Makayla?

- Vast evidence supports increased likelihood of:
 - Decrease in IQ
 - An increase in BLL from 1 to 4 ug/dL, drops mean IQ -3.7 points
 - Small change in mean IQ, shifts entire population IQ distribution
 - Reduces high achievers IQs (>130) and increases kids with low IQs (<70)
 - Implications for special education services, employment, incarceration, life achievement, etc

Lanphear BP et al., Low-level environmental lead exposure and children's intellectual function: an international pooled analysis. *Environ Health Perspect*, 2005. 113:894-9.

Fewtrell LJ, Pruss-Ustun A, Landrigan P, and Ayuso-Mateos JL, Estimating the global burden of disease of mild mental retardation and cardiovascular diseases from environmental lead exposure. *Environmental Research*, 2004. 94:120-33.

Behavioral Burden

- Increased likelihood of :
 - ADHD behaviors
 - Delinquent behaviors and arrests
 - Total arrests and increased rates of arrests involving violent offenses
 - Other health effects: hematologic, cardiovascular, immunologic, endocrine, etc

Wright, JP, KN Dietrich, MD Ris, et al. 2008. Association of prenatal and childhood blood lead concentrations with criminal arrests in early adulthood. *PLoS Med* 5(5): e101

Chen, A, B Cai, KN Dietrich, et al. 2007. Lead exposure, IQ, and behavior in urban 5-7 year-olds: Does lead affect behavior only by lowering IQ? *Pediatrics* 119(3): e650-e658.

Needleman, HL, C McFarland, RB Ness, et al. 2002. Bone lead levels in adjudicated delinquents: A case control study. *Neurotoxicology and Teratology* 24(6):711-717.

The Cost

- “For childhood lead poisoning, \$5.9 million in medical care costs, as well as an additional \$50.9 billion (sensitivity analysis: \$44.8–\$60.6 billion) in lost economic productivity resulting from reduced cognitive potential from preventable childhood lead exposure.”
- “The present value of Michigan’s economic losses attributable to lead exposure in the 2009 cohort of 5 year-olds ranges from \$3.19 (using U.S. blood lead levels) to \$4.85 billion (using Michigan blood lead levels) per year in loss of future lifetime earnings.”

Leonardo Trasande and Yinghua Liu. Reducing The Staggering Costs Of Environmental Disease In Children, Estimated At \$76.6 Billion In 2008. *Health Affairs*, 30, no.5 (2011):863-870

The Price of Pollution: Cost Estimates of Environment-Related Childhood Diseases in Michigan. 2010 Report by Michigan Network of Children’s Environmental Health

Lead in Water

- Increasing as source of lead, because of success in controlling other sources.
- Increasing due to aging water infrastructures, change in water sources, disinfectant uses, etc
- Disproportionally impacts developmentally-vulnerable formula-fed infants and pregnant mothers
 - For about 25% of infants drinking formula made from tap water at 10 ppb, blood lead would rise above the CDC level of concern of 5 micrograms/deciliter (or ug/dL).
 - Increase in fetal death and reduced birth weights

Triantafyllidou, S., Gallagher, D. and Edwards, M. Assessing risk with increasingly stringent public health goals: the case of water lead and blood lead in children. *Journal of Water and Health*. doi: 10.2166/wh.2013.067 58-68 (2014).
Edwards, M. Fetal Death and Reduced Birth Rates Associated with Exposure to Lead-Contaminated Drinking Water. *Env. Sci. and Tech.* 2013 DOI: 10.1021/es4034952

Preliminary Results

(results removed)

Conclusions from BLL analysis

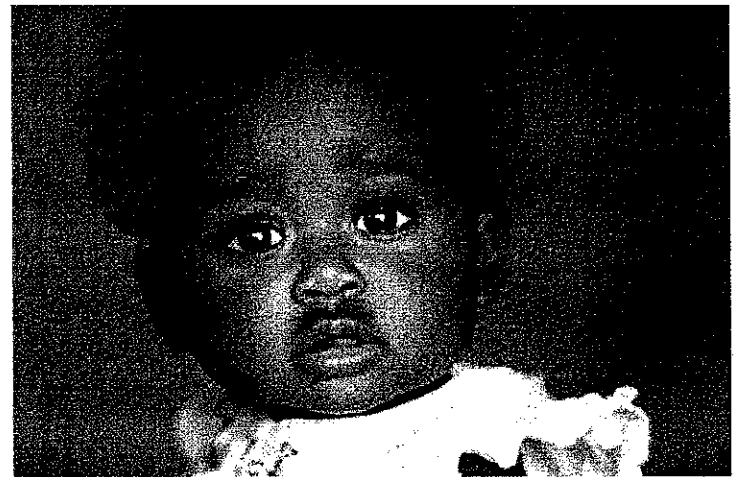
- % of children with EBL in Flint has increased
 - Most striking increase in zip codes with highest water lead levels
- Results underestimate risk: infants not screened for lead and water usage unknown.
 - *Accurate exposure largely unknown since national childhood lead screening focuses on household lead exposure (paint, soil, dust) at later ages (1 and 2 yrs)*
- Results are consistent and concerning. Primary prevention has failed.

Next Steps

- Immediately limit further exposure
 - Encourage breast feeding
 - No tap water for high risk groups: infants on formula & pregnant mothers
 - Declare health advisory: allows WIC to administer water or ready-to-feed formula and other resources (Salvation Army & United Way water supplies)
 - Distribution of lead clearing NSF-approved filters
 - Public education regarding precautions (flushing, etc)
 - Re-connect to Lake Huron water source ASAP

And Makayla...

- Asymptomatic now
- But what will her future hold and an entire generation of Flint children?



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September 9, 2015

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Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Mr. Dan Wyant
Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

Administrator McCarthy and Director Wyant:

The attached June 24, 2015, memorandum between two Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employees, Miguel A. Del Toral and Thomas Poy, published recently by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, suggests that there are high lead levels in the city of Flint, Mich., water transmission lines. Furthermore, this document reflects that children consuming this water had levels of lead in their blood in excess of three times what they were prior to the city of Flint switching its source water from the Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD) to the Flint River.

In addition, this memorandum makes recommendations to Mr. Poy, Chief of the Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch of EPA Region 5, to do three things. First, for the EPA to work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to provide technical assistance to the city of Flint to deal with water quality issues. Second, it suggests the EPA review the compliance status of the city of Flint in respect to its compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Third, the memorandum recommends that the EPA conduct a review of the city of Flint testing procedures to ensure they are compliant with the LCR.

Regarding this memorandum and the surrounding water quality issues in the city of Flint, I have the following questions:

- Was this memorandum actually sent to Mr. Poy?

- Are the findings in the memorandum regarding the lead levels in the city of Flint water accurate?
- If there were in fact high levels of lead in the water in the city of Flint, when did the EPA and/or MDEQ plan to alert the public?
- What, if any, of the recommendations has the EPA followed from the memorandum?
- Given the demonstrated level of lead in the water in Flint, MI, is the water safe?

Regardless, I am very troubled by recent tests suggesting high levels of lead in the city of Flint's water system. As you know, on the EPA's website it says that lead above the "action level" in drinking water can cause a variety of adverse health effects, including delays in physical and mental development in babies and children.

According to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA has the responsibility of enforcing water quality standards. EPA, however, has given the primary responsibility of enforcing water quality standards to the state of Michigan via MDEQ. As such, it is the responsibility of these agencies to ensure that the people of the city of Flint have safe drinking water.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc:

State Senator Jim Ananich
State Representative Sheldon Neeley
State Representative Phil Phelps
Mayor Dayne Walling, City of Flint
Howard Croft, City of Flint
Susan Hedman, EPA
Thomas Poy, EPA
Michael Schock, EPA-ORD
Darren Lytle, EPA-ORD
Denise Fortin, EPA
Liane Shekter-Smith, MDEQ
Pat Cook, MDEQ
Stephen Busch, MDEQ
Brad Wurfel, MDEQ
Marc Edwards, Virginia Tech

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2015

Administrator Gina McCarthy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

As you know, the City of Flint had, and potentially still could have, dangerous levels of lead in its drinking water. We appreciate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) creation of the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force and other efforts to provide access to safe, reliable, clean water to the residents of Flint. We seek further information regarding the sustained commitment by the Task Force to work with the State of Michigan to address the long-term effects of lead exposure on Flint's children.

It is our understanding that the City of Flint, the State of Michigan, and the EPA have monitored the situation in Flint since the first report of poor water quality in 2014. However, it is clear that various opportunities to predict and prevent contamination were not taken, exposing Flint residents, and especially infants and pregnant women, to dangerously high levels of contaminants including, but not limited to, lead. This failure of government to ensure the public's safety and health must not be repeated in Flint or anywhere else. While progress is being made to improve the water quality after reconnecting to the Detroit Water System, Flint's residents and its water system are still vulnerable to short and long-term impacts.

It is critical that the local, state, and federal partners remain vigilant, and that EPA take a strong leadership role through the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force to prevent further contamination during the current transition to Detroit and the future transition to the permanent connection to Lake Huron source water through the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA) pipeline. In an effort to understand the actions being taken by Task Force and address current and future challenges with Flint's water, we seek answers to the following questions:

- How often does the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force communicate amongst itself, and what are the communication protocols?
- How long will it take for corrosion control agents to fully create a barrier between water and the inside of the pipes?
- How are testing methods being improved to accurately measure water quality and correct testing mistakes of the past?
- How is the EPA and the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force interfacing with other federal agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and other agencies with


respect to the future needs of the residents of Flint stemming from the long-term effects of toxic lead exposure on Flint's children from its drinking water?


- In the future, will the EPA notify residents directly if they believe the local or state government actions are inadequate to properly communicate significant risks to the public?
- The State of Michigan is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal drinking water standards. In addition, the state has elected to assume the legal responsibility for disbursing the resources it receives from EPA's Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds. How will the Task Force provide the ongoing, long-term support and oversight needed to ensure the state complies with federal standards and allocates the revolving funds in a manner that most effectively protects public health?


We encourage you to continue monitoring and supporting any and all ongoing measures by the EPA and the Task Force to test for and reduce contaminants in drinking water, prepare for the future transition to the KWA pipeline to Lake Huron, and identify and replace aging water infrastructure. Your presence in Flint will help restore the confidence in the ability of water quality regulators and begin to rebuild the trust in the effectiveness of the critical safeguards found in laws such as the Safe Drinking Water Act.



We appreciate your prompt response to these questions and invitation as well as your continued attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Gary C. Peters
U.S. Senator


Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator


Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

From: [REDACTED] **Submitted:** 9/20/2015 4:24 PM EDT**Email:** [REDACTED] **Phone:** [REDACTED] **Address:** [REDACTED]  (Valid)**Subject:** Environment

Message: Dear President Obama, I live in Flint,MI. I came here 40 years ago looking for a better life than Arkansas. My life was going very until G.M. moved their factories out Flint,MI. The city became desolate. We have low paying jobs,high utilities,high rent and no chance of a fast of recovery.We are the second city of the nation with high poverty. A lot of the people can not move out of the city. There is a problem with the water in the City of Flint. The City o Flint decided to disconnect from the Detroit Water System. They decided to use the river in Flint for the cooking,drinking,and bathing. Well, in the mean time we are being exposed to large amount of chlorine,rusty water,fishy smell and other disinfect products.The chlorine is eating up the pipes and flowing in the the houses. The city flushes out the fire hydrant to clear out the containments. It runs about 5 hours with no success.We was written a letter from the city stating the long term effect of the use of the water.The long term are liver problem,kidney problem and cancer.people at this have rashes,sores, and hair lost.No one is concern with the problems of the health problems. We are told that that is fine with no problems and is drinkable.When I look at it ,"We live in the United States of America' and should have basic human rights.Third world countries have no basic human rights.So, Flint.MI is a third world city with dictatorship.I am afraid if I make wave or speak up because I be labeled as a "Troublemaker." I wrote you hoping you might read.

From:[REDACTED] **Submitted:** 10/3/2015 9:56 AM EDT**Email:**[REDACTED] **Phone:**[REDACTED] **Address:**[REDACTED]  Valid**Subject:** Civil Rights

Message: Please Help Us ASAP!! We r the headlines of news daily. We have been declared STATE OF EMERGENCY because our water is unsafe & has high lead levels. It was kept from us until UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA TECH came & took samples from homes & businesses. Our Senator is trying to help but our GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER is not helping us at all. In fact he is the cause of our problems. He appointed us an emergency manager to our town. The EMERGENCY MANAGER with the GOVERNORS help got the bright idea to disconnect us from DETROITS water to our old water plant which had sit for years. Our waterpipes in the city our ancient also. Our GOVERNORS quick fix is to hand out 4,000 waterfilters to the people they feel are most important first. Who has the right to make that decision? We DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE!! SOME CHILDREN ALREADY HAVE GOTTEN LEAD POISONING!!

From:

[REDACTED]

Submitted: 10/1/2015 1:00 PM EDT**Email:**

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Address:

[REDACTED] (id)

Subject: Environment

Message: I am writing to request the City of Flint immediately be designated as a federal disaster area. I am seeking your assistance to make this happen.

I have written to you previously with grave concerns about the water situation here in Flint, MI. I am writing to you again to assert the fact that the people of the city of Flint cannot wait for assistance to travel through the maze of bureaucracy before our dire situation is resolved. Our babies are being poisoned by lead in our drinking water. That fact was recently brought to light by a study conducted by Dr. Hanna-Attisha, director of Hurley's pediatric residency program and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics & Human Development at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

Dr. Hanna-Attisha's study was conducted even before a research team from Virginia Tech University completed their comprehensive study of Flint River water. That study, of course, concluded that Flint River water not only caused lead from Flint's water delivery system to leach from pipes and solder into the tap water of most Flint homes, but the high level of corrosiveness in Flint River water, which is estimated by Dr. Marc Edwards, leader of the Virginia Tech team, to be 19 times more corrosive than Detroit water, was also causing Flint's fragile infrastructure to erode exceedingly more rapidly than it would with Flint's previous water source. (The city previously purchased Lake Huron water from the City of Detroit.)

As I write, there is a cloud of uncertainty of the extent of the damage caused in our children by this man-made disaster. As a health professional, I am well aware of the devastating effects of lead poisoning on the brain and on human development. Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable. There are approximately 8,000 children under five years of age in the City of Flint. In addition, there can be neurological damage in children and adults, kidney damage, heart damage, and problems with reproduction. The long term health issues imposed upon the people of this city by our city officials is immeasurable, and cannot be calculated in mere dollars and cents.

From:**Submitted:** 9/28/2015 1:33 PM EDT**Email:****Phone:****Address:****Subject:** Environmental Protection Agency**Message:** Dear Mr. President,

We have a serious problem in Flint, MI. The river water that the City of Flint has decided to use for its drinking water has been tested and contains lead. I do not need to tell you the dangers of this and as a Mother of small children I am concerned. I have a special needs brother who ingested lead as a toddler. I believe this caused his mental disability, as lead does cause developmental issues. Our local government has failed to fix the problem and decided to contact Governor Snyder. Governor Snyder has decided to ignore the request made by our mayor to help switch back to the Detroit water system. It seems to me that nobody cares about this. The water is unsafe for infants, children, and elderly. The city has advised not to ingest the water, however, we still must bathe, wash clothes, and clean with it. We seem to give aid to foreign countries for unsafe drinking water. Why is this happening in the United States of America??? We could use your help on this one....

From:

[REDACTED] 

Submitted: 9/29/2015 11:15 AM EDT


Email:

[REDACTED] 

Phone:

[REDACTED] 

Address:

[REDACTED]  (valid)


Subject: The Administration

Message: I love my beautiful home-state of Michigan. I've lived in several states and, at times, other countries, but I've always needed to come home to the mitten.


Our city water in Flint contains lead. Not trace amounts, but amounts high enough to be very damaging to our residents and even our environment (we are effectively distributing Pb to the city using the water system).

This is an emergency. I've written government officials to include my Governor, Rick Snyder, but no one is acting as if this is any more important than losing internet access or even electricity. Potable water is absolutely essential, and we have none here aside from what fundraisers purchase and send in bottles. It is not enough by orders of magnitude.

We need help! We need intervention, we need action, but above all, we need water. There are several avenues to get water into our city, but Flint cannot afford them at the time. To me, this shouldn't be an issue of profit or even budget. We absolutely need clean water. Please, Mr. President, help Flint.


From:[REDACTED] **Submitted:** 9/29/2015 1:29 PM EDT**Email:**[REDACTED] **Phone:**[REDACTED] **Address:**[REDACTED]  (valid)**Subject:** Justice Department

Message: Last year, we the citizens of Flint, Mi. were charged an extra 18 percent for our water bills. Our city was under the direction of the state. We had been getting our water from Detroit, Mi., but the city decided they did not want to do that anymore, and they decided to use our Flint River as our water source. Our water is now brown, and smells bad. The city and state officials kept trying to tell us the water was safe to drink and use....IT'S NOT. After further investigation they now are saying our water has very high levels of lead, and is unsafe to drink, unsafe for human consumption. It is turning our clothes yellow from washing, and our skin it getting patchy from bathing. WE NEED HELP. The city officials say it would be too costly to switch back to Detroit's water lines; however in my opinion it would be too costly not to. Our kids can't drink the water in the schools, our fountains are covered in black plastic at church, the gym, and any other public place within the city limits that don't have a filter on their water. Our governor Rick Snyder does NOT seems to be putting any effort into trying to rectify the situation or getting us any type of help. This is the birthplace of General Motors, and even though most of the General Motors factories are no longer here, and it is becoming more of a college town, we deserve better than this. We are paying for water we CAN NOT EVEN DRINK OR COOK WITH. This is inhuman, and not fair. Please respond, and thank you for your time.

From: [REDACTED] **Submitted:** 9/15/2015 11:50 PM EDT**Email:** [REDACTED] **Phone:** [REDACTED] **Address:** [REDACTED]  (valid)**Subject:** Environmental Protection Agency**Message:** Hello President Obama,

I live in Flint, Michigan. I, as well as many other residents have a very large concern that is not being addressed. Today is September 15, 2015. This morning I was alarmed by the discovery, our water is coming out brown. I have seen a lot on the local news articles about the caustic and corrosive water in our community and even the fact that a young child in our community developed lead poisoning from the corroding pipes leading into his home but never did I expect to see a disturbing color of water coming from my faucet. It was confirmation that we have a serious issue.

I have 3 very young children, we are a young family. I am 21 years old. My children are 3, 2 and 1 years old. As a mother, I do everything in my power to keep my children happy, healthy, safe, and out of harm's way. How can I keep them safe, healthy and out of harm's way with lead in our water? A Virginia Tech professor visited our community to try to assist with our water issue and was also in disbelief at how far the city has let this issue go. He confirmed that children in our community are at risk for lead poisoning from our water. The professor also spoke about a risk for bacterial infections.


My middle daughter, [REDACTED]  2 years old she is struggling with a lot of medical problems. She has 9 specialists and currently no diagnosis. She gets sick very easily. When a child is at risk for infection, you are advised to avoid anything that could cause him/her to get sick but when the risk is in their home water, how can you avoid it? We are a low-income family but we do everything we can. We buy bottled water and we even boil bottled water to cook with. But as a parent I know you are well aware there are other times your child will come in contact with this water. For example, when I give her a bath and she swallows it while playing in it. At some point in time every day, everyone in our community is at risk. Please help us. We need answers, we need someone to take action, someone that they will have to listen to.

Here are a few links to give you an idea of what we are dealing with.

<https://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2015/09/091415-engineering-edwardsflint.html>

<http://flintwaterstudy.org/information-for-flint-residents/results-for-citizen-testing-for-lead-300->

Thank you so much for your time and I hope I will be hearing from you as well as receiving a response to our issue soon.

Sincerely, [REDACTED] 

10/9/15
8:5

From: [REDACTED]
Submitted: 9/28/2015 3:59 AM EDT

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]


Address: [REDACTED]

Message: In Flint, MI. the water is brown, it is poisoning our people, and it definitely violates the Clean Water Act. It is not safe to bathe in, drink, or cook with. We are being billed for water usage. The public has been misled by City officials, and there is no URGENCY to help us! Flint switched their water source to the Flint River to save money. The City blatantly put over 99,000 people in danger. 2015 study held at Hurley Medical proving there are high levels of LEAD in over 1500 children. President Obama, this doesn't include mothers, fathers, elderly, oppressed, sick, pregnant, homeless people, etc. This decision to use the Flint River, has grave consequences on us. Affecting us physically, mentally, emotionally, and most of all effecting us financially. We were dependent on Detroit for over 50 years. The Flint River was to be temporary until we could get water from Lake Huron. April 25th, 2014 Flint's Mayor announced the pull out from Detroit, you are able to read MLive article stating Flint will make history with this newly developed water system. This fairy-tale has been sold to us on lies and misleading statistics that we now know are untrue. If you haven't seen Flint recently or ever, please come here and see how my people are living more so than not. This City is forgotten, desolate with several people living in poverty. Please visit my Facebook, Erin Brockovich's Facebook page, see our water with your own eyes. This is America. Do you know why an entire city is living like they are in a third world country, are you even aware this is happening? I'm asking for your help, come to our City and mandate our Governor declare us a State of Emergency and abandons the Flint River immediately. We pay for water, which should be in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

I have created the Petition for you to review if we can get the 100,000 signatures, writing you as well. If you're asking why this is so important to me, My granny. She has bad legs and needs to take baths. Her husband just passed, she lost his Social Security. Now she has to work more hours and take more baths for her legs. Now that her budget decreased by \$600 she can't afford to purchase water. I don't want her to die, get sick, We need her. The 99,002 (2014 census bureau) people of Flint have someone they love and need. We have to do something. Will you do something?

Sincerely,


[REDACTED]
Founder and Executive Director
[REDACTED]

From:[REDACTED] **Submitted:** 9/30/2015 1:55 PM EDT**Email:**[REDACTED] **Phone:**[REDACTED] **Address:**[REDACTED]  (valid)**Subject:** Energy Department

Message: In our town we use water from the Flint River. Our children's health is at risk now. The city hospital, Hurley Medical Center found lead in our children who recently was at their hospital. Now we have a bigger problem. the public schools are asking for water to be donated. I feel like we are in a foreign country. We are the Great Lakes for Heavens Sake. My water bill for one person in the family is \$98.00/month. Can you imagine what it is for a family of 4. We are paying for water we can not use.
Is there anything you can do to help us.
I contributed to your campaign even though, It could have served me in other ways.





Please Help Our Children.

Thank you

[REDACTED] 

From:[REDACTED] **Submitted:** 8/14/2015 2:34 AM EDT**Email:**[REDACTED] **Phone:**[REDACTED] **Address:**[REDACTED]  valid)**Subject:**

Message: Our water in Flint Michigan is contaminated and our bills have soared. Warnings were sent out, only about a year after the community had drunk and used it in other ways, that if you were old or young that you should consult a doctor before using it. My daughter's cat would not drink it, just to give you an example of the horror of it all. I am scared to wash my hair and take a bath, although I sometimes take showers. They tell us that the water is not only bad but the pipes are as well. I feel as if they are trying to kill us. Can you please help to solve this problem because I don't want to have to buy water and want to bath more often and want to feel safe. I am just wondering how this can happen in the United States of America. I live alone and have a 1 inch meter and my water bill is close to \$200.00 per month. The amount of water I use is under \$20.00. I have a problem with paying this bill. Something is very very wrong.

From: [REDACTED] 
Submitted: 10/8/2015 7:22 AM EDT
Email: [REDACTED] 
Phone: [REDACTED] 
Address: [REDACTED]  (id)
Subject: Health and Human Services Department

Message: It has been a year since the residents of Flint, MI have had water suitable for consumption. Governor Snyder is ignoring the well being of thousands of people and their families. Schools are dipping into funding so they can supply the children with water bottles. People are paying ridiculous water bills for chemical and lead filled water. Someone needs to step in and bring awareness. Media outlets must not think that this story will help ratings, because this should be national news! I am in awe and disbelief that we now live in a country where we can't even provide clean water to its citizens. My family and I are lucky to have clean water from a different source, but I work in Flint and speak to its residents daily. My sister and her young children have to boil distilled water to bathe due to the skin irritation from their own faucet. I know you have a lot on your plate, but please... the people need your help.

From:

[REDACTED] 

Submitted: 9/28/2015 10:55 PM EDT

Email:

[REDACTED] 

Phone:


[REDACTED] 

Address:

[REDACTED]  alid)

Subject: Health and Human Services Department

Message: MR.President,

my name is [REDACTED]  i live in the city of flint michigan for the last year or so we in the city have been forced to use unfit unclean, and unhealthy water, we are using water from the flint river at times its so brown you would think its mud at other times the smell is over welling now its full of lead the citys answer is go buy bottle water well im surr you know we are a very poor city the poorest in the state i want to know how they are getting away .with this do you even know about this .

White House Agency Liaison Casework

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Case: [REDACTED]

Case Information

Contact Name	[REDACTED]	Status	In Progress
Contact Phone	[REDACTED]	Agency Tracking ID	
Contact Email	[REDACTED]	Agency Detail	
Contact Address	[REDACTED]		

Description Information

Who are you trying to contact? The White House and President Obama

Description Sir, Good day, Giving honor to the one who is head of my life Lord God Jesus. I live in Flint Michigan. We have a great problem here with our water system, as we have extremely high levels of lead in it. We are not able to drink the water nor use it to cook with. Our children can not drink it at the schools. When you take bath in it you break out! There have been several different people in here who have done different studies on the water. The latest was Virginia Tech they found high levels double the recommend safety levels. The doctors from Hurley and Genesys Hospitals have voiced their concerns as they have seen children with dangerous high levels of lead levels in their blood systems. The elderly, children and those that have health issues stand to suffer the most. I know for a fact that when I was drinking it that my doctor thought I had a virus for 6 weeks. Then I started to buy water and it disappeared.

Sir, WE NEED HELP!!!! I am reaching out to you as the people here in authority have lied and said oh it ok to drink the water then they said oh we need to spend 1.6 million to buy a filter to filter out bacteria. Then Erin Brockovich people came in and did a study before Virginia Tech they found things wrong with the water. There have news cast reports issued that there is lead copper and other things in our water. People have to buy water to drink and some to bathe in. Home owners are being charged for water that they can not use!! All we want is help to have water that is drinkable and we can cook in. We want the City to go back to Detroit water. The city of Flint was under an emergency city administrator who switched us over to the Flint River in 2014. Flint use to be a thriving Motor City but now it seems that we are forgotten by all. Flint was home of the SIT DOWN STRIKE 1936-1937 which revolutionized the auto industry.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE IN MY PRAYERS.

SINCERELY

System Information


Created By	EOP Admin, 10/1/2015 11:50 AM	Last Modified By	EPA Agency Representative, 10/21/2015 11:02 PM
Case Origin	Contact Us	Assigned To Agency Date	10/20/2015 7:43 PM

From: [REDACTED] 

Submitted: 9/24/2015 10:49 AM EDT

Email: [REDACTED] 

Phone: [REDACTED] 

Address: [REDACTED]  (Valid)

Subject: Health and Human Services Department

Message: I have faith that this email might actually reach you and I just might get a response. I wrote you an email before under the name "[REDACTED]" with no response. I was taught never to give up, therefore, I am trying once more in efforts that you might actually be reading this yourself.

The topic is Flint, Michigan's water and high levels of lead. Flint residents, CHILDREN, are getting sick and poisoned by the water, coming from the Flint River, as a result from lead service pipes. There is such lack of care in this situation by Governor Rick Snyder and his officials. People should not have to live this way, especially when they are unaware of the lead in their water, as they are told it is safe to drink and give to their children.

Please say there is something that you can do.

I thank you for your attention to this extremely urgent matter.

Best,

[REDACTED] 

From:[REDACTED] **Submitted:** 5/15/2015 11:04 AM EDT**Email:**[REDACTED] **Phone:**[REDACTED] **Address:**[REDACTED]  (Valid)**Subject:** Health and Human Services Department


Message: I am currently living in flint mi and paying around 100 a month for water I can't even drink. I really don't even want to shower in this water. It comes out yellow. But I really have no other options. How is it legal that a city in United States of America can force this water on us and nothing is done. It has been bad for a year now and it is not getting better. Please shine some light on this situation and help our city. Our city is so close to a breaking point that I fear this summer could get crazy. No water or jobs can make a already violent city get even worse. Thanks for your time.






June 1, 2015

Ken Kopocis, Deputy Assistant Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water (4100T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Kopocis:

My name is [REDACTED]  am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and a Public Health Nurse. Water is such an essential element and nutrient to human survival. Public Health Nurses have an obligation and responsibility to report any health hazards that would jeopardize the health of the public that would deny them safe and healthy water. Last year over 20,000 Detroiters had their water abruptly terminated. The United Nations Human Rights Council came to Detroit to listen to testimonies of residents who experienced water shut-offs.

I also attended the Summit last year and heard testimonies how school children had to get up around 6:00 in the morning to bathe in their schools because they did not have any water in their homes. Last weekend The United Nations Human Rights Council came to Detroit. I heard the testimony of a mother named [REDACTED]  who has young children in the home. She stated her water was shutoff and in two weeks she developed Viral Pneumonia, dehydration with a fever of 106 degrees.

Last year in April 2014, residents in the City of Flint, Michigan switched from the Detroit water system to using the Flint River. Residents in Flint noticed that their water taste different and noticed the discoloration.  Some residents begin to experience hair loss and rashes. There is a woman named [REDACTED]  who testified and stated she developed Lupus, Hashimoto Disease and Copper Poisoning since October of last year. Children can be taking from their homes by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In 2014 E-coli levels forced communities in Flint to boil their water.

The residents of Highland Park, Michigan had not received water bills in five years. There is a water debt in Highland Park. There is discussion that the whole city of Highland Park water will be shut off. This could endanger the public and lead to an environmental health threat. I will be

assisting civil rights organizations and community activists to promote policies and legislation to protect the environment by having safe and affordable water. I have enclosed some articles and obtained some signatures from The United Nations Human Rights Summit on the water crisis in Detroit, Flint and Highland Park, Michigan. On Wednesday, June 2, 2015 I will be speaking to Michigan House of Representatives along with other community organizations and residents about the safety, affordability and public health crisis concerning the water crisis. I hope that your concern about this crisis will make it possible for you to investigate and resolve such a serious matter. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., stated, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". I may be contact at [REDACTED] Thanks Kopocis.

Respectfully Submitted,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Amos 5:24 (NIV) But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.

(ATTACHED)

Dates: Friday, May 28, 2015; Saturday, May 29, 2015 & Sunday May 31, 2015.

Signatures from organizations and people in the community and across the globe that attended
The United Nations Summit on **Water Is A Human Right !!**



The Detroit News

Friday, May 29, 2015

detroitnews.com

Highland Park debt stalls water deal

has been

subscribers, include Internet at
The FCC Chairman
Wheeler has emphasized that In-
ternet access is a critical compo-
nent of modern life, key to educa-
tion, communication and finding

and the
to Internet service

Oakland, Macomb don't want to pick up city's tab

BY NOLAN FINLEY, INGRID JACQUES
AND CHAD LIVENGOOD
The Detroit News

Mackinac Island. — Highland Park may be dissolved as a government entity to finish a long contentious deal to form a regional water authority.

That's one of the solutions under consideration to bust through a major barrier and move the city-owned Detroit Water and Sewerage Department under the control of an authority made up of Detroit and Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, county officials confirm.

In the negotiations, Oakland County is insisting on a resolution of roughly \$32 million in unpaid water bills, most of which is owed by residents of Highland Park and the rest by Detroit.

The initial water authority deal was forged a year ago with the help of Gov. Rick Snyder during the Detroit Regional Chamber's policy conference here. Although a memorandum of understanding was signed by leaders of the city and all three counties, a final pact has been elusive. There is a June 14 deadline to finalize a deal.

The parties will meet Monday with federal Judge Sean Cox for a mediation session specifically focused on resolving how the delinquent water bills will be covered, according to sources.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, supported by Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, is balking at the idea of dissolving Highland Park, which would lead to having the debt absorbed into the water system and spread across all customers. The idea would benefit the city of Detroit.

"It's not the responsibility of the suburbs to cover Detroit and Highland Park's arrearage," Patterson says. "That's a deal-breaker. I can't go to my taxpayers and tell them I agreed to this."

Patterson says the memorandum of understanding originally contained so-called backstopping protection, meaning "we're not going to backstop Detroit if it fails." But he says that language is no

HOWES: No time to rest in post-Chap. 9 Detroit. **6A**

WAGE LAWS: Cotter wants businesses to lead fight. **6A**

ONLINE: Get updates today from Mackinac conference at **DETROIT-NEWS.COM**

Please see Water deal, Page 6A

WATER is a HUMAN RIGHT!

WATER SHUT OFFS:

- Place **YOU** & others health at risk!
- Can lead to the Michigan Department of Human Services taking Your **CHILDREN** & disabled loved ones!
- Can put your **HOME** in jeopardy of being **CONDEMNED**, and your family **EVICTED**!
- If water is **PRIVATIZED** water costs will **DOUBLE** or **TRIPLE**!
- **120,000 Detroit households** (approximately 300,000 Detroiters) are in jeopardy of shut offs!

**Help get the word out by joining our door-to-door
"Taking It To the Streets" Canvassing & Phone Banking Project!**

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wethepeopleofdetroituser@gmail.com

#wethepeopledet



We the People of Detroit has operated an ALL VOLUNTEER Water Rights Outreach program for over 3 months including:

- Detroit Water Drop Program (Water Crisis Hotline)
- Establishment of 4 Emergency Water Stations (listed below)
- Helped hundreds of Detroiters get water turned on & make payment arrangements;
- Raised water donations of over 10,000 gallons of water;
- Delivered 1,000's of gallons to the elderly & nursing mothers

Our volunteer work in cooperation with the People's Water Board Coalition has helped lead to:

- Moratoriums on water shutoffs
- Filing of the lawsuit against the Department of Public Works and Sewerage Dept.

We are hopeful that you will consider cooperating & supporting our efforts by volunteering, donating funds, and sharing our website: wethepeopleofdetroit.com
Our canvassing efforts & hotline help Detroiters affected by the Water Shut Offs!

Detroit Water Drops:

Dexter Elmhurst Center
11825 Dexter Ave.
Detroit, Michigan 48206
Monday thru Friday
Times: 10-2

St. Peters Episcopal Church
1950 Trumbull
Detroit, MI 48216
Times: TBD

Mathis Community Center
19300 Greenfield Rd,
Detroit, MI 48235
Monday thru Friday 12-3
Saturday 10-3

Trinity St. Mark
9315 Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48209
Times: TBD

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Water deal

Continued from Page 1A

longer in the agreement.

The memorandum did not contain language about Highland Park's unpaid bills.

Highland Park is \$25.6 million in arrears on its water bills and has \$2 million in assets, according to a source familiar with the finances. Collecting the debt from the enclave is a lost cause.

So Patterson is asking the state to float a bond issue to cover the water bill debt. Hackel is also objecting to spreading the arrearages of Highland Park and Detroit (\$5.6 million) across the system.

"This is a huge issue," says Hackel, who has been vocally opposed to the deal since signing the outline. "It's a bad precedent and sends the wrong message to other communities about their responsibilities. It's an example of the inconsistencies between what the (memorandum) says it will do and the reality of how it's being implemented."

One way out that is being discussed is having the state take Highland Park into bankruptcy and asking a federal judge to dissolve it as an organized community, with Detroit absorbing its residents. The

judge could then force the regional authority to take on the debt or impose a special tax levy on the region to raise the money.

"The community goes away, but the debt doesn't," Patterson says.

Last month, a Wayne County Circuit judge ordered Highland Park to pay the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department \$20 million for its unpaid water bills. The city's mayor, DeAndre Win-dom, has vowed to appeal the ruling.

Hackel says another possibility for dealing with Highland Park is to use the first of \$50 million in lease payments Detroit will receive from the authority over the next 40 years to wipe away all of the unpaid water bills. That approach would deny Detroit money it is counting on to fix its water infrastructure, forcing it to dip into its general fund for maintenance and repair dollars.

"If all of a sudden now we're trying to divert that \$50 million to pay for an unpaid debt or for those who aren't able to pay their debt, that's a conflict of what was agreed upon in the beginning," Hackel says. "That's not what this is for. I don't believe the ratepayers would expect that that's what we should agree to."

Oakland County is also demanding tighter restrictions on how Detroit spends the lease payments. Patterson

wants the city to spend the money first on fixing water leaks that are driving up costs for the entire system.

A final agreement needs the approval of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and a majority of the six-person regional water authority board. The board consists of two Detroit appointees; three representatives from Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties; and one appointee of the governor representing water customers outside the three-county region.

Cox, who has placed a gag order on participants in the talks, wants Duggan and Patterson to meet alone with him Monday in hopes the two can get to a handshake on the deal. Patterson says he won't do it.

"I'm not going in there without my team," says Patterson, referring to his deputies, Bob Daddow and Jerry Poisson, who have taken the lead in vetting the agreement.

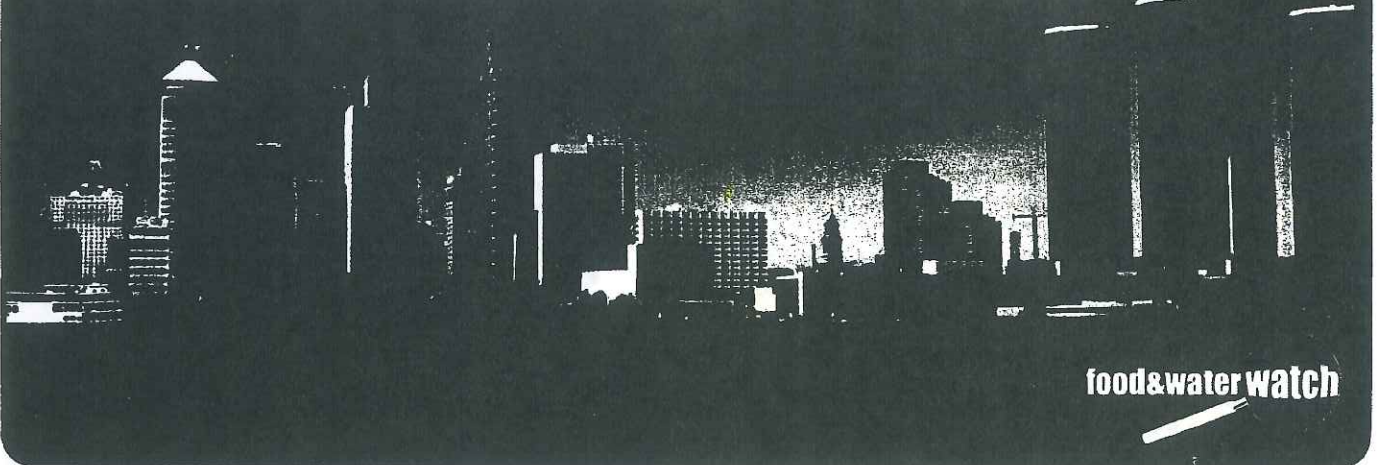
Duggan sidestepped a question Wednesday after a speech to the Mackinac conference when asked to respond to Hackel's public comments about the water authority.

"He's not as afraid of the federal judges as I am," the mayor quipped, referring to the gag order.

nfinley@detroitnews.com

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DETROIT NEEDS A WATER AFFORDABILITY PLAN



Issue Brief • May 2015

The City of Detroit has shut off water service to thousands of customers who are behind on their water bills. Many residents have lost access to running water in their homes because they simply cannot afford to pay the city's ever-increasing water rates. To avoid violating basic human rights and creating a public health crisis, the city must stop residential shutoffs, restore service to disconnected households and implement a broad and accessible affordability program.

Loss of Democratic Control

In March 2013, Governor Rick Snyder sent emergency manager Kevyn Orr to Detroit to run the city,¹ foregoing the process of democracy and citizen participation. An emergency manager serves at the pleasure of the governor, not the voters² — and has the authority to privatize public services,³ regardless of the wishes of elected officials and voters/residents.⁴ A few months later, in July 2013, Detroit declared bankruptcy,⁵ and the threat of privatizing the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) became very real.

Orr first proposed leasing the water and sewer systems to a new regional authority to raise money to pay off some of the city's debt and to fill the city's budget shortfall. For years, Rep. Kurt Heise and other officials from the surrounding suburbs had advocated the creation of such an authority to take over the DWSD, which serves over 4 million people in eight counties,⁶ but county officials recoiled at having to compensate the city for control of the water system.⁷

In March 2014, Orr took a different approach and announced plans to privatize the DWSD, issuing a request for information from interested parties.⁸ After the counties objected, the bankruptcy judge ordered Orr and the counties into confidential mediation.⁹

Ultimately, the regionalization proposal took hold, and, in September 2014, the Detroit City Council and Oakland, Macomb and Wayne County Commissioners approved the creation of the Great Lakes Regional Authority, which will lease Detroit's water and sewer systems,¹⁰ putting full control of water and sewer services into the hands of unelected, appointed officials.¹¹ In February 2015, under the direction of the bankruptcy judge, the counties, the city and the DWSD resumed confidential negotiations about the lease arrangement.¹² As of May 2015, these talks were ongoing.

This regionalization deal, a key part of Detroit's bankruptcy settlement, creates a path to privatization. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) — the foundation of the agreement

— provides for the privatization of system operation or management. Instead of elected city council members, appointed, unelected water board members will make this decision. As part of the restructuring, the DWSD hired Veolia North America to review the water and sewer systems to make recommendations “in evaluating operating models.”¹³ Veolia is the largest private operator of municipal water systems in the United States.¹⁴

Water Shutoffs

In March 2014, on the same day that Orr issued the request for information from potential private operators,¹⁵ the DWS announced that it would begin an aggressive water shutoff campaign, disconnecting service for 1,500 to 3,000 city customers every week for nonpayment.¹⁶ The shutoff program appeared to be an attempt to clean up the department’s books for potential private — or county — investors. Another round of shutoffs was announced to begin in May 2015, targeting 28,000 commercial and residential customers.¹⁷

- From January 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015, more than 35,000 Detroit households — an estimated 96,000 people — lost water service for nonpayment.¹⁸
- Almost 15,000 households — an estimated 41,000 people — remained without water service at the end of January 2015.¹⁹
- About 147,000 residential customers — nearly half of households — were more than 60 days past due on their water and sewer bills and faced losing water service, as of February 4, 2015. They owed an average of \$664.²⁰

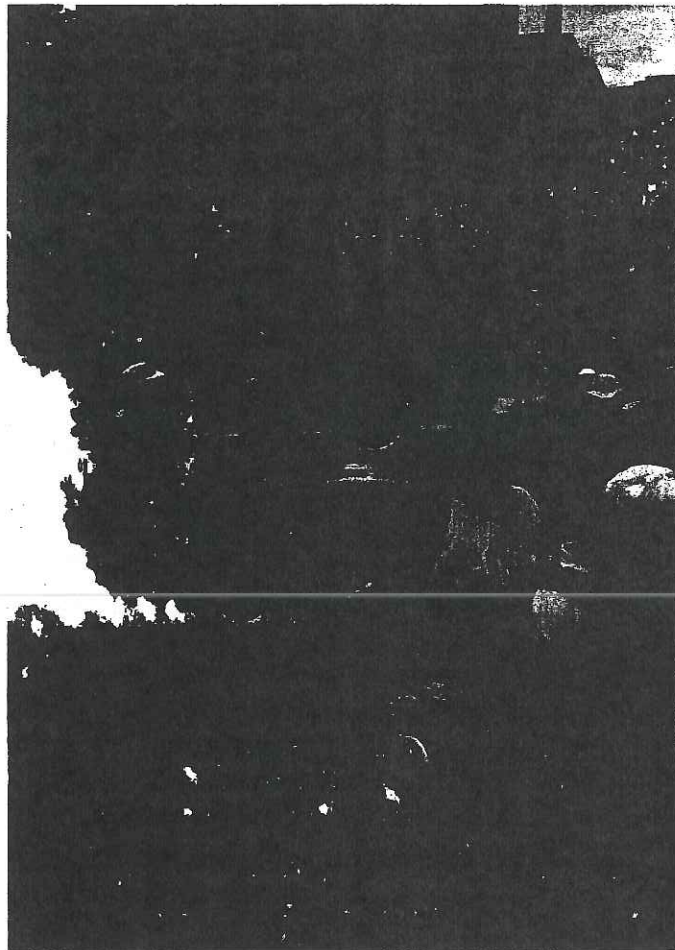
Over the last decade, water and sewer bills have more than doubled. Rates continue to increase. On July 1, 2014, the DWSD raised residential water and sewer rates by 8.7 percent, increasing average household bills from \$64.99 to \$70.67 a month.²¹ The department has proposed another 12.8 percent rate increase for city residents beginning July 1, 2015.²²

A significant portion of Detroit’s population simply cannot afford to pay their water and sewer bills. This is a major crisis. When half of the city struggles to pay their water bills, it becomes clear that this is not just a problem with delinquent payment. It’s indicative of broader, systemic issues resulting from decades of policies that put profits before people.

In Detroit, 39.3 percent of residents and more than half of the city’s children are living in poverty.²³ Detroit’s most recently reported unemployment rate from February 2015 is 12.5 percent²⁴ — more than twice the national rate.²⁵

An Affordability Plan Is Necessary

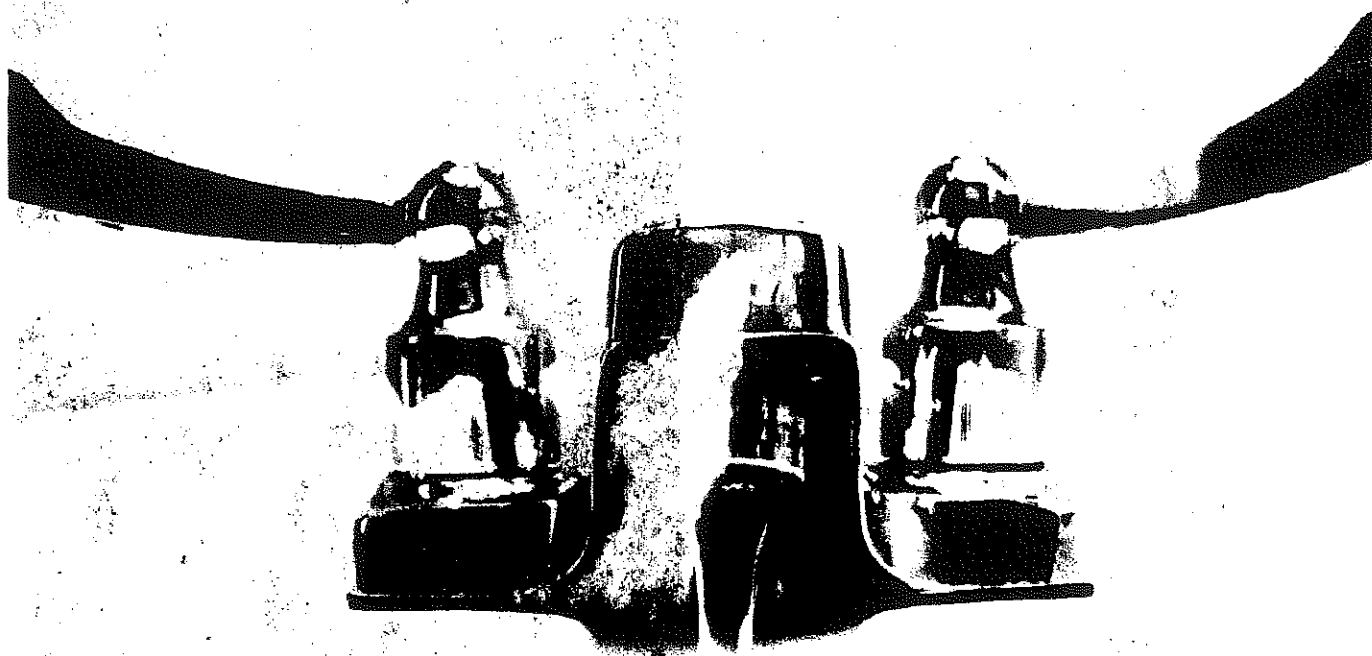
In March 2015, the DWSD’s Board of Water Commissioners voted to increase water and sewer rates for city residents by a combined 12.8 percent, effective July 1 should the City Council seal the deal.²⁶ Rate hikes, however, will simply make water less affordable for the half of Detroit’s households unable to afford their bills. The Great Lakes Regional Authority fails to address the system’s underlying problems and likely would only worsen Detroit’s water woes.



In 2006, the Detroit City Council approved a Water Affordability Plan (WAP), which is supported by Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and the People’s Water Board Coalition. However, the DWSD chose not to implement this plan, and instead created their own program, the Detroit Residential Water Assistance Program (DRWAP).²⁷ The DRWAP, which is directed toward single-family dwelling households at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, is *only applicable* to a customer whose water is already shut off or who faces pending shutoffs.²⁸

In August 2014, Mayor Mike Duggan and the DWSD developed a 10-point plan (the “10/30/50 payment plan”) in an attempt to help residents pay their water bills, but it too is available only for people who are already behind on their water bills.²⁹ In summary, it requires at least 10 percent upfront on an outstanding balance and then spreads the rest of the balance over 24 months — not actually reducing the amount owed.³⁰ Assistance is limited to households enrolled in a payment plan, with balances of \$300 to \$2,000, and to household incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Originally the amount of assistance maxed out at 25 percent of a household’s monthly bill, but as of May 2015 the 10-point plan has been adjusted to pay up to 50 percent of a customer’s bill.³¹

In April 2015, an investigative reporter for the ACLU Michigan disclosed that of the 24,743 residential customers enrolled in the 10-point plan, only about 300 were able to keep up with their payments, leaving 24,450 households to default.³²



If the costs of water and assistance plans are unaffordable — leaving people unable to pay — then money is not going to go back into the system, and, in the long run, everyone pays more. But with an income-based affordability plan — like the original WAP — people are able to pay into the system, which generates consistent revenue for the system.

Specifically, under the WAP, a customer can receive help before reaching default, and avoid shutoffs and massive makeup payments altogether. The original plan was directed toward households with incomes at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level, which is nearly half of the DWSD's residential customers.³³ This preventative plan uses an income-based approach, and qualification is determined based on the ratio of a household's utility bill to the household's income. A customer does not have to already be in payment default.³⁴

With more shutoffs looming, combined with the proposed rate hikes, it is clear that the current assistance programs in place are not effective. Fortunately, there are solutions:

- *Local.* In order to keep utility payments — and water — flowing, the DWSD needs to fully implement the original water affordability plan approved by the city council in 2006. An income-based approach to water billing is the most equitable option.
- *National.* Detroit and communities across the country need a renewed federal commitment to our water and sewer infrastructure. Congress should create a dedicated source of federal funding to the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds and renew the Build America Bonds program.

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Food & Water Watch works to ensure the food, water and fish we consume is safe, accessible, and sustainable. So we can all enjoy and trust in what we eat and drink, we help people take charge of where their food comes from, keep clean, affordable public tap water flowing freely to our homes, protect the environmental quality of oceans, force government to do its job protecting citizens, and educate about the importance of keeping shared resources under public control.

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From:[REDACTED] **Submitted:** 1/27/2015 6:45 PM EST**Email:**[REDACTED] **Phone:**[REDACTED] **Address:**[REDACTED]  (valid)**Subject:** Other Agency



Message: I live in a city where crime is high, schools are closing, neighborhood are declining and very little law enforcement. It seems like Officials and the people who run our city do not care about the people who are trying to be upstanding citizens and make it in an already impoverished environment, Like were forgotten or less important. For months now we have had an issue with our water supply! One moment we the citizens are told that are water contains ecoli and we should boil or not use it, then we are told it is fine, only to be told days later that the water is in fact not fine and now contains high levels of Trihalomethane! People who are pregnant and elderly are instructed not to drink it as well as sickly people! My concern is being a citizen myself i have not felt safe enough to drink the water that i pay for on a monthly basis at high cost (nearly \$140) monthly. I have 2 small children, who i will not let drink the water. I am low income, so i can not afford to keep buying water by the case to make sure we have drinking and cooking water. There has been several meetings with officials and the people, but still no resolve. Not even a refund, only a letter to say that they know of our concerns! How long must the citizens of Flint go without water, or feeling safe to drink the water. Water is suppose to be a naturally resource, and i feel like the city that i live in is trying to poison the citizens! Everything living needs water to live. Who do we as citizens have to stand up for us when our local official will not stand up and take action? The water has been cloudy, even yellowish in color, with an extreme bad odor for months, yet for weeks they told us the water was fine. Only to retract their statement and say that the water is not fine and that long use of the water will be harmful to a baby or pregnant person, elderly, or sick person! Nobody will take a stand, so i decided to start here, hopefully someone will hear my cry, not only for myself and my family, but for the other citizens of my city who seem to have no one that care. Sincerely, Fed up in Flint..... [REDACTED] 

1/13/2015

Mr. President,


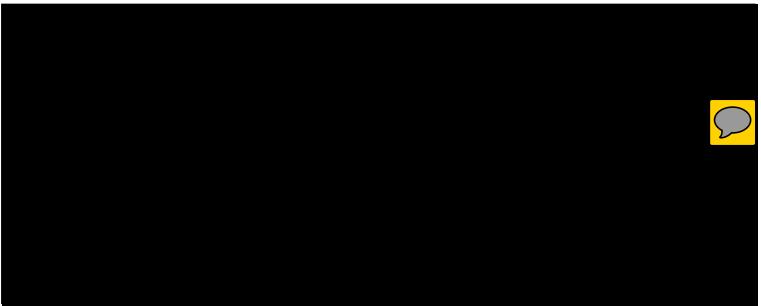
I Am waiting with worry
of my DRINKING WATER quality :
I live in The city of FLINT.
There has been many "boil Alerts"
AND most Recently A letter of
Alert sent to Residence Regarding
Refrigerant & cleaning solvent
being found in The River water
we receive.

We were with The Detroit
Water system for 50 years AND
most Recently switched to
LOCAL River water. The local
Politicians are all about
SAVING \$. Our Safety +
HEALTH should be The focal
point. While they all jockey


FOR POSITION WE ARE STILL DRINKING
UNSAFE WATER. WE NEED NO MORE
ANALYSIS. PLEASE AUTHORIZE
HOOKING FLINT, MI BACK UP
TO THE DETROIT WATER SYSTEM.


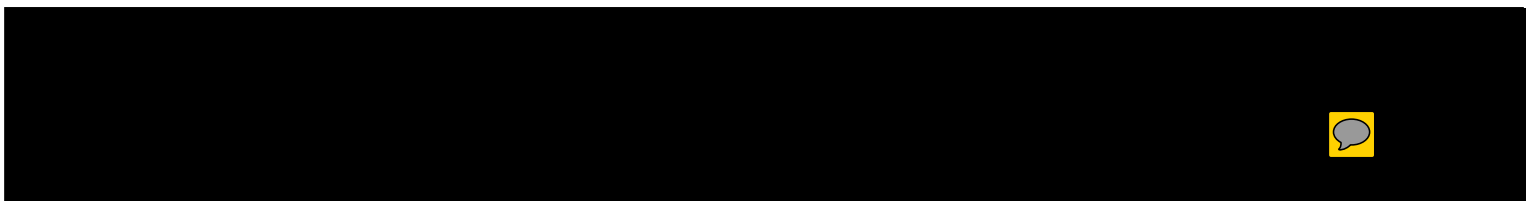
YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION
GREATLY APPRECIATED.





Sincerely,



phone:





From: [REDACTED] 
Submitted: 1/27/2015 8:58 AM EST
Email: [REDACTED] 
Phone: [REDACTED] 
Address: [REDACTED] 
Subject: Health and Human Services Department

Message: Our water in Flint mich is contaminated and causing us to become ill. IS THERE ANYWAY THAT YOU CAN COME HELP US!Detroit said that we could connect back for free but instead they want to keep feedings us River water that's not good for our elderly or infants. We need you Obama we our breaking out in rashes and being hospitalized for chemicals in our water, Every city should have safe drinking water. We have to purchase it on a daily basis and it's not in our budget or we don't have enough income to buy water like this. Please help us.

From:

[REDACTED] 

Submitted: 1/23/2015 7:56 AM EST

Email:

[REDACTED] 

Phone:





[REDACTED] 

Address:

[REDACTED]  (valid)

Subject: Health and Human Services Department

Message: I want to bring to your attention if you're not already aware, that the people of Flint, MI has to drink water that has contains Trihalomethanes (TTHM). The residents of our city were sent out a letter regarding this but were told to continue drinking it even though it could lead to problems with live, kidneys, or Central Nervous System, and may increase risks of cancer. They have also publicly stated that the elderly, infants, and people with immune deficiency problems should soak with their doctors before drinking.
Your help is desperately need. The people of this city are asked to pay high water bills and then we have to purchase water to cook, drink and bath with. My husband and I pay over \$120 per month for water.
Thank you.

From: [REDACTED] 
Submitted: 1/13/2015 11:33 PM EST
Email: [REDACTED] 
Phone: [REDACTED] 
Address: [REDACTED] 
Subject: Environmental Protection Agency

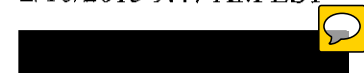
Message: I live in Flint, MI where the city residents are fighting for clean, safe and affordable water. Something we feel is a right-not a privilege. You are a president of change and the best to voice our concerns. No one in the United States should be without clean water. I urge you to help us fight for a change. We have over chlorinated water created tthm chemical byproducts. People are already becoming ill, skin rashes are appearing on our children, and our pets are ill. It's not safe to drink,cook or even bathe here. Our representatives have lost are trust by not notifying us when this first began. Instead they raised are rates and waited months. As this proceeded several different boil advisories due to fecal bacteria in our water, we the people are fed up and disappointed in our state and city leaders. The water rates are on average over \$140 for one month. While surrounding areas are paying that amount for three months. I believe you are an incredible President and that you could help this nation improve their quality of water for everyone. Thank you, sincerely, for your consideration!

From:



Submitted: 2/10/2015 9:47 AM EST

Email:



Phone:



Address:



Subject: Health and Human Services Department


Message: I live in flint michigan and i get charged 400 dollars a month for water that's being pulled from a polluted river that's unsafe for my family to use the chemical their using to clean the water has such high amounts that people with health issues and infants can't drink it this is a major problem here in flint kids have rashes and people are terrified to drink or use their water....please help us everyone turns a cold shoulder because we live in poverty this is America not a third world country

From:

[REDACTED] 

Submitted: 1/23/2015 7:59 PM EST

Email:

[REDACTED] 

Phone:

[REDACTED] 

Address:

[REDACTED]  (valid)

Subject: Environment

Message: Please excuse my grammars. I am not very good with it. But Please I need your attention. Will you please look up Flint, Michigan and see what is going on? We got bad water. It got THMs in it. The water system had been a mess for months now. Please Please we need your help. Because the mayor and the local government people are saying they cannot afford to switch back to Detriot Lake Huron water. The kids get rashes from THMs and some pets died from it. we need help please.

White House Agency Liaison Casework

- [Close Window](#)
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Case: [REDACTED]

Case Information

Contact Name	[REDACTED]	Status	In Progress
Contact Phone	[REDACTED]		
Contact Email	[REDACTED]		
Contact Address	[REDACTED]		

Description Information

Who are you trying to contact? The White House and President Obama

Description FLINT, MI. WATER QUALITY IS BAD SINCE SWITCHING TO FLINT RIVER. MY WATER STINKS LIKE SEWAGE AT TIMES, I HAVE DEVELOPED A COUGH AND RASH, BROWN SEDIMENT IN SINK BASINS AND KITCHEN SINK STAYS BACKED UP. I HAVE WRITTEN CITY HALL WATER DEPT. AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR HELP. NO RESPONSE YET. INNOVATIVE FORECLOSURE PROGRAM IS STYMIED BY THE AGENCIES LIKE STEPFORWARD WHO THROW UP RED TAPE AND ROAD BLOCKS TO ACCESS. I BELIEVE THEY ARE JUST DATA MINING FOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN MY CASE. I HAVE TO REAPPLY AND SEND IN ALL NEW DOCUMENTS BECAUSE THEY WITHDREW MY PREVIOUS APPLICATION. IT IS SO FRUSTRATING AND I AM IN DANGER OF FORECLOSURE ON MY PAID OFF HOME. PROPERTY TAXES WERE \$800.00 IN 2011, I PAID FOR THE PREVIOUS OWNER AND THEN THE TAXES WENT UP TO \$1406.26 IN 2012. MY CURRENT WATER BILL IS \$480.00 I CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY MYSELF FOOD AND MEDICINE. I AM STRUGGLING HARD. I DON'T WANT TO BE HOMELESS. MY MOM DIED APRIL 8, 2014 AND I AM TRYING TO KEEP HER HOME FROM FORECLOSURE OR MY SISTERS WILL BE HOMELESS.

System Information

Created By	[REDACTED]	0/2/2014 2:26 PM	Last Modified By	EPA Agency Representative, 10/7/2014 10:13 AM
Case Origin	Manual		Assigned To Agency Date	10/2/2014 5:40 PM
			Date/Time Closed	
			Assigned To Agency Age	4.7
			Age Alert	
			Subject	Health and Human Services Department

Contact Information


Contact Information

Name	[REDACTED]	Title	
Middle Name		Email	[REDACTED]

From:**Submitted:** 1/9/2015 12:23 PM EST**Email:****Phone:****Address:****Subject:** The Administration

Message: The City of Flint MI's HAZARDOUS water crisis is COMPLETELY out of control, and needs urgent attention! Since Flint changed over the primary water source from Lake Huron through Detroit, to the Flint River, Flint has never been able to get the water quality to safe levels. People are having VARIOUS health problems along with widespread outbreaks of skin rashes and infections after showering! They have photos and various other forms of proof and documentation and are now reaching out to all major News media for help! This is affecting the entire city, and they obviously do not have the resources to make it safe! And all of this can be corrected, simply by changing back over to Lake Huron water, until the Port Huron Pipeline is completed! But apparently the residents need help in making that happen! The city has also recently issued warning notices to all residents, of an extremely toxic chemical Trihalomethanes, that is extremely high in the city's water! In which they were already cited for 3 months ago! Especially dangerous to elderly, infants, or people with weakened immune system. WE "ALL" HAVE ELDERLY AND INFANTS, AND PEOPLE WITH WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS IN THE CITY OF FLINT! Not to mention all of the other people who are already having illnesses and skin infections. And of course the local restaurants are still required to use this contaminated water as well. And on top of all of the health hazards, something is very suspicious with the billing system! Residents are now required to pay astronomical water bills every month, whether it's ONE PERSON, or Families of 4, the average water bill is \$160 to \$170 PER MONTH, and some are exceeding well over \$200 PER MONTH, and every month ALL the bills are stating that it's based on ESTIMATIONS? No-one ever receives an actual meter reading! How is a household of ONE Older person, going to be the same, or in a lot of cases, MORE, than the household across the street with a Family of 5? IT SIMPLY DOES NOT MAKE SENSE AND ALL OF IT NEEDS TO BE INVESTIGATED IMMEDIATELY! THEY CANNOT EVEN DRINK THE WATER, and are scared to death to even shower! How is our entire city water supply, in such a hazardous quality state, right here in the United States of America? When it can all be corrected, simply by switching back to Lake Huron water! With the expense of what the residents are paying, it should more than accommodate costs! PLEASE SEND HELP ASAP!! OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!!

From:[REDACTED] **Submitted:** 11/23/2014 11:03 PM EST**Email:**[REDACTED] **Phone:**[REDACTED] **Address:**[REDACTED]  (valid)**Subject:** Other Agency

Message: Honorable President Obama, I am writing this letter regarding citizens in the city of Flint Michigan, in the winter, having to carry water on foot for blocks for drinking and sanitation. I am asking why there are no emergency water access taps available to the citizens 24/7, possibly on hydrants? Why private wells are not allowed when the city can not provide affordable, safe usable water to citizens, NGOs and corporations. Why hasn't the city asked for help from the state and federal government? Does the city know how many people are without water? I just became aware of this problem but it is not a new problem. I know one family that waited months to have water turned on during a property ownership transfer and I am volunteering at an emergency water site, open limited hours, using buckets carried from and open hydrant for sanitation, handing out bottled water but unable to offer a shower or laundry services because the water is even off there due to egregious expense. The water problem in Flint should be addressed as a public health emergency because: Families without water are considered homeless. Households without water access are in danger of loss or damage to the home and having children separated from their parents by the social service system that is suppose to help them. No one can stay healthy or be a productive citizen in this society when they have to spend time looking for access to something as fundamental to survival as clean water to drink, running water to wash the body in preparation for worship, work or school and for sewage removal. Access to basic needs like sanitation are huge hurdles for public health in the Majority World. Why am I seeing this problem perpetuated here? As You may know even in Haiti, towns and rural communities have 24/7 access to public wells, Jamaica has 24/7 access spigots in the water pipelines at regular intervals and Rome has had 24/7 public water access for over 2000 years we still use it today. I know you are aware of the water problem in Detroit as it has made the national news, also that you have a heart for addressing problems such as these in the constituency and wanted to bring this to your attention. Quote for the cause, Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime - Aristotle. Respectfully, [REDACTED]  RN BSN MS